



May 30, 2014

## Weekly Report

# A Highlight of Departmental Activities

*The Weekly Report showcases the activities and accomplishments of the many Departments within Rutherford County Government. Click on the directory list, department headings, icons and text in blue to be linked to more information.*

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### [Airport](#)

The Airport sold 977.10 gallons of 100-LL fuel and 278 gallons of Jet A. Prepaid customer fuel sales totaled 771 gallons. Cash sales totaled \$145.94.

Current fuel prices for Rutherford County Airport:

100LL - \$5.45/gallon      Jet-A - \$4.75/gallon

Rutherford Airport has seen a large increase in fuel sales and fuel pumped within the past 4-5 weeks. As reported for April, during the last Authority meeting, combined gallons pumped was roughly 8,000 gallons. So far, for the month of May, the Airport has already exceeded 9,500 gallons. The large increase in sales is primarily due to investors and part-owners visiting the new equestrian center being developed on Hwy74/Pearidge Road. Horses are being flown via Boeing 737 to Greenville/Spartanburg, while their owners are currently landing at Rutherford Airport. Past jet fuel loads were delivered approximately every 9-12 weeks. With the last load delivered, the Airport is now emptying full 8,000 gallon loads every 5 weeks.

Staff are also currently using a new method of fuel price advertisement, which according to visiting pilot comments, is one of the main reasons for stopping at Rutherford as opposed to other airports for fuel. They plan to continue advertizing and report their findings at the next Authority meeting.

### [Board of Elections](#)

The Board of Elections staff have begun mailing absentee ballots for the second primary. Preparations have also started for testing the voting equipment

### Building Inspections

The Building Inspections Department staff have issued 22 permits totaling \$4,947 in fees. Included in those permits are a couple of new houses, as well as, the County's first commercial solar farm to be located on Ellenboro-Henrietta Rd. The solar farm consists of 8,360 solar panels on a 12 acre tract. Inspectors have conducted 151 inspections despite the shortened holiday week.

### Clerk to the Board

Commissioners had a busy week even though it began with a holiday. On Tuesday, Commissioners had a budget workshop as they continue on the journey to approve a budget for 2014-2015. On Wednesday, Commissioner Owens and the County Manager attended County Assembly Day sponsored by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. While in Raleigh, Commissioner Owens attended the Agriculture Steering Committee on Thursday. Commissioners met on Thursday evening to review the agenda for the regular June 2 meeting and to, again, visit the budget. Following the meeting, several Commissioners attended the FFA banquet at Chase High School. On Friday, the Clerk to the Board and the Deputy Clerk participated in a webinar on new software for tracking boards and commissions.

The Public Information/Deputy Clerk received two public information requests; worked with the Solid Waste Director and Litter Enforcement Officer to finalize the draft portfolio of the Solid Waste Sign Replacement Program; participated in a webinar by Granicus for their Boards and Commissions software; participated in a Granicus/Measured Voice webinar on *Governing in the Age of Social Media*; published one media release; updated the website landing page for [Public Information](#) with sub-page links to Employment Opportunities, Public Hearings and RFPs; completed various other administrative support tasks for the County Manager and Clerk to the Board.

### Cooperative Extension

The 4-H Youth Development staff are finishing 4-H Embryology in the second grade classrooms, and classrooms at five different schools are hatching their own chicken eggs to learn about the life cycle. Two fundraisers were completed this month. Four new TRY (Teen Reaching Youth) members are being trained to teach 4-H Health Rocks to younger youth. They are planning to teach it in afterschool programs in the fall. 4-H Leaders met with the 4-H agent to plan upcoming 4-H programs and fundraising opportunities.

The Agriculture Staff recognized the NC Cooperative Extension Centennial Observance at the Farmers Market (5/17) and worked on programming for the Farmers Market summer events, promotion materials, and signage. Staff attended the monthly meeting of the Farmers Market Committee and networked on the Farmers Market Nutrition Program with NCDA&CS Marketing Division. The staff also began EMGV Programming for 2014 Class and existing EMGV's. Promotion of the Rutherford County Community Garden was carried out and work continued with the Master Gardener Volunteers in the application/rules & regulations for the new community garden. 73 contacts were made.

Make It and  
Take It  
Workshops!



## Home Canning & Freezing Made Easy Workshop

**Tuesday, June 10, 2014**

**9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. or 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

**Cooperative Extension, 193 Callahan Koon Road, Spindale**

Day session – Instruction plus hands-on canning. Lunch on your own 12:00 – 1:00.

Evening session – Instruction only

\$15.00 Registration fee includes Ball Blue Book and all supplies. Call 287-6010 to register.

Free canner testing also available.



## Dehydrating Made Easy Workshop

Enjoy  
summer's  
bounty all  
year long!

**Thursday, June 19, 2014**

**1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

**Cooperative Extension, 193 Callahan Koon Road, Spindale**



Learn to dry fruits, vegetables, meats, and herbs.

Registration is required, please call 287-6010

Cost: \$5.00

Persons with disabilities and persons with limited English proficiency may request accommodations to participate by contacting Tracy Davis, Extension Agent, Family and Consumer Sciences at 828.287.6010 or [Tracy\\_Davis@ncsu.edu](mailto:Tracy_Davis@ncsu.edu) or fax – 828.288.4036, or in person at the County Extension Office at least 10 days prior to the event.

## County Manager

The County Manager spent a majority of the week working with the Finance Officer and Assistant Finance Officer on the FY2014-15 budget. He traveled to Raleigh to participate in County Assembly Day on Wednesday and, on Thursday, held a Special Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. He finished the week in meetings with the County Attorney, Revenue Director and representatives from the Cliffside Sanitary District.

## Economic Development

The Economic Development Commission Executive Director met with the Town of Forest City and Duke Energy representatives and contacted several other allies to gather information in response to an industrial recruitment RFI from the Department of Commerce; assembled, input and submitted the response to the Commerce RFI; reviewed and submitted executed incentives documentation to Commerce; attended the Board of Commissioner's budget workshop and attended the monthly agenda review.

The Project Administrator networked with existing industry via visits, phone calls and email; worked with staff to research material to assemble a response to an extensive RFI; visited an existing industry to deliver One NC grant funds for accomplishment of required expansion goals; attended a meeting at Rutherford County Annex to discuss fiber service possibilities at the airport; worked on compilation of Business and Industry Resource Guide and scheduled an existing industry visit to provide updates.

The Economic Development Assistant worked with the Executive Director to assemble and input an extensive RFI response; forwarded additional information to the site consultant in follow up to the RFI submitted; prepared and submitted a request for disbursement of the matching funds grant for the Duke Site Readiness Program; spoke with a builder owner to ensure the data on file was current and correct; and followed up with the Finance Department regarding the issuance of an incentives check for an existing industry.

## Finance

The Finance Director and Assistant Director attended the Commissioners' Budget Workshop and Pre-agenda Meeting. The Finance Officer met with the County Manager to continue reviewing details of the School and College's budget requests and how the State's budget decisions may affect the County. Payment for the upcoming June 1<sup>st</sup> debt payments have been scheduled. The Finance Office has processed accounts payable this week.

## Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

The Fire Marshal/Emergency Management Director traveled to Raleigh on Tuesday and met with legislators on Wednesday along with other fire professionals from across the State. He also reviewed emergency plans for Duke Energy and group homes



**Happy  
Birthday  
Carl!**



## Human Resources

The HR Department enjoyed the long Memorial Day weekend. The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. Employees who have left the service of Rutherford County are Daniel Pearce (DSS). Congratulations to Daniel on his retirement!! The Director attended a meeting with Kerry Giles. The Director attended the budget workshop meetings on Tuesday and Thursday, conducted TDA interviews along with Michelle Whitaker and conducted Food Service Assistant interviews along with Angela Ezell on Thursday. A representative from CFNC (College Foundation of NC) will present a college savings plan to employees on June 12. Current job openings posted are: part time TDA Welcome Center, Paralegal for the Revenue Department, and Food Service Assistant for the Senior Center. View county website to apply. Interviews have been scheduled for all positions. A Wellness Fair is being planned for July 29<sup>th</sup> with a lot of helpful information being presented. More information will be sent out closer to date. Don't forget Owls night for County employees is June 20, 2014. Call Christina at 828-245-0000 for ticket information.



### Rutherford County Services Employee Night

FRIDAY JUNE 20, 2014

Gates Open at 6:30pm

Game starts at 7:30pm

The Forest City Owls are hosting a Rutherford County Services Employee Night for all county employees to come out with their families to enjoy a night out with the Owls. Each county employee can take advantage of our group rate of \$5 per person for our June 20<sup>th</sup> game. The \$5 ticket is for our premium reserved seat that is located under our awning and with large fans to keep cool. County employees can purchase their tickets online, email

[Christina@forestcitybaseball.com](mailto:Christina@forestcitybaseball.com), or call Christina at 828-245-0000.

To purchase online go to: <https://cplbaseball.wufoo.com/forms/rutherford-county-employee-night/>



### Information Technology

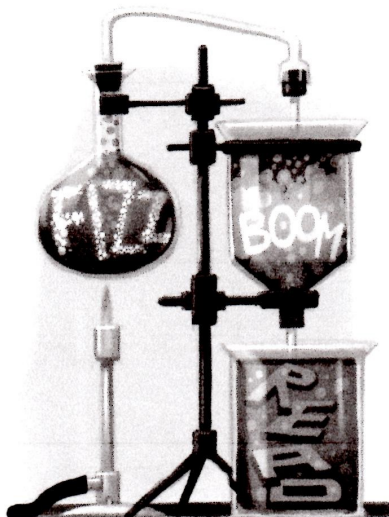
The IT Department completed 25 Track-It requests. Staff had a meeting with PANGAEA, Eco Dev, and Airport officials to discuss running fiber or wireless to the hangers at the Airport. The group will reconvene on June 6th to discuss estimated costs. The budget workshop and agenda review meetings were recorded. Weekly meetings on the tax and phone software were held to deliver updates. The listing is now complete so IT will make a copy of the tax data to begin testing with live data on the new software package. Also, staff had a meeting to discuss audio problems in the courtrooms with three audio vendors and Clerk of Court officials.

The department will be upgrading the email server to the latest and greatest version which will work so much better with VoIP and RightFax. Apologetically, you will experience some interruptions. It has been five years since the last update and the necessity of it will cause some interruptions. IT appreciates your understanding and patience during this process. The biggest downtime anticipated will be rebooting, especially in the beginning, which is not a time consuming step, but it could be necessary multiple times. Most of the rebooting should take place after regular operating hours (after 5:00 pm) and the upgrade should be complete by mid-June.

Remember to send all your IT, Maintenance, and VoIP needs to [trackit@rutherfordcountync.gov](mailto:trackit@rutherfordcountync.gov) but please

### Library

**The Library's** Miss Jeannie has been doing Outreach Programs at Mt. Vernon/Ruth Elementary School, and has been busy with last-minute preparations and publicity for the upcoming Summer Reading Program. The free programs for children ages 2-12 will be held each Tuesday (except July 1) at 9:30 a.m. at the Haynes Branch Library, 12:30 p.m. at the Rutherford County Library, and 3:30 p.m. at the Mountains Branch Library starting June 17. Special teen programs will also be held once a month. In addition to the programs is the Summer Reading Club where children keep a log of the books they read and are awarded prizes based upon the pages read. More details to come.



## 2014 Rutherford County Libraries Summer Reading Program

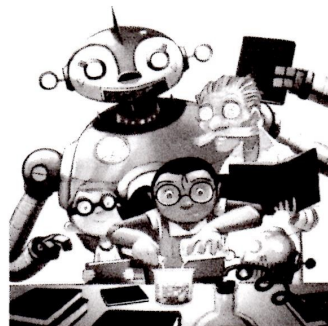
**Free Programs for ages 2-12  
each Tuesday (except July 4 week)**

- 9:30 am Haynes Branch Library (141 N. Main St.,  
Henrietta, 657-9110)
- 12:30 pm Rutherford County Library (255 Callahan-  
Koon Rd, Spindale 287-6115)
- 3:30 pm Mountains Branch Library (150 Bill's  
Creek Road, Lake Lure 625-0456)

- June 17 Vicky Town—Nationally-known Comedic Storyteller and "Parents'  
Choice" Award Winner ([www.vickytown.com](http://www.vickytown.com))  
\* also at 7:00 p.m.—Teens' Comedy Improv Workshop at Rutherford  
County Library
- June 24 Steve Brogan—Ventriloquist ([www.stevebrogan.com](http://www.stevebrogan.com))
- July 1 No Program
- July 8 Noah's Landing Traveling Zoo with numerous exotic animals  
([www.noahslanding2x2.com](http://www.noahslanding2x2.com))
- July 15 Zelnik the Magician ([www.zelnikthemagician.com](http://www.zelnikthemagician.com))  
\* also at 7:00 p.m.—"Tales From Beyond" Magic Show for Teens at  
Rutherford County Library
- July 22 Mad Science Stage Show ([www.madscience.org](http://www.madscience.org))
- July 29 Summer Reading Celebration Party with program by Miss Jeannie

### **Summer Reading Club**

*Reading is vital to the Summer Reading Program. Set your own goals. Get a Contract and Reading Record at the library and return by July 22. Read at or above your level and to preschoolers. Write titles completed on the Record. Certificates and prizes to be awarded at the final program July 29.*



## Public Works and Planning

The Public Works and Planning Department garage had 7 preventative maintenance service calls, 11 repairs, 5 tire service calls and 4 other repairs/inspections. Maintenance completed 38 work orders, repairs and grounds keeping of all County facilities. The Project Manager continues making progress with the community grant projects and Biggerstaff property. We anticipate sharing updates with the Commissioners on these two projects during their July meeting. This week the Planning Board met and reviewed a small revision to an existing subdivision along with hearing updates on Queens Gap, Greyrock and the Community grants. The Director has been involved in multiple meetings across County functions in an effort to continue progressing in facilities improvements, budget, and planning projects in addition to follow up with contractors, architects and citizens for ongoing projects that are underway. I am pleased to note that construction activities on the Thermal Belt Rail-Trail have begun and are expected to be completed by mid- June. We have a site plan for the Proposed Henrietta EMS and Library and continue progress with the architect on these projects. This week we've also researched the possibility of a joint facilities study of all buildings belonging to the RC Schools, ICC and the County.

Grey Rock is nearing the end. The paving project recently completed now allows driving on asphalt from one end of the project to the other. Project 10 should be completed in early June and we will advertise to pave it along with the portion of Project 8 that hasn't been paved. Project 11 will start as soon as the waste material location has been finalized with the property owner and the HOA. Hopefully that can be finalized within the next week or two.

Queen's Gap Project 1 should be completed by the end of May. We have had to revise the project schedule due to the delays from weather and the difficulties of Project 1. Projects 2 and 3 should proceed simultaneously once Project 1 is completed since we have two different contractors on this project. Also, the waterline plans should be submitted for approval within the next week or two. Plans are being finalized with BRWA and, once we hear back from the State, we will advertise and go to bid. This is a large project worth over \$4,000,000.

## Register of Deeds

The Register of Deeds Department made 14 copies resulting in cash receipts of \$74.00, processed 215 real estate records with \$14,350 received in cash, and processed 66 vitals, receiving \$1,510. A total of 295 transactions were made with a total of \$15,934 in cash received.

## Revenue

The Revenue Department answered 620 phone calls, and assisted 200 citizens who came in to the office (3 being PUV). 18 deeds were recorded and 116 were transferred. 34 new accounts were set up. Mapping completed 2 splits and created 4 new maps. 5 new E911 addressees were assigned. Ownership of 164 addresses was updated. Appraisers completed 224 field reviews and 59 permit visits. Electronic payments consisted of 25 by credit/debit, 28 by website, and 5 by phone. 190 citizens came in to pay at the counter. Enforced collection action consisted of 30 garnishments, 6 attachments, 22 employee lists, and 11 payment plans. 23 Deeds were certified. Staff worked 2 plat reviews, 1 data request, 65 bankruptcy payments/issues, 50 car bill issues, 1 pre-permit, 5 discoveries, 34 releases, and 14 refunds. 75 pieces of mail were received and processed. 3 BER appeal letters were mailed out. 8 exemption applications were processed. Staff completed 745 listings and finished 5447 August Motor Vehicle renewals.



## Senior Center

The Senior Center wrapped up celebration of Older Americans Month this week with several different activities. The seniors enjoyed playing Chair Volleyball, Price is Right, and Family Feud. The Center also hosted an annual Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast on Thursday morning. They would not be able to offer the numerous activities or serve the thousands of meals without the help of our volunteers! This week the Congregate Meal Program averaged 185 meals a day-this includes the three satellite meal sites. The Program currently serving 80-85 clients on the Home Delivered Meal routes and also providing 30-35 meals per day to the Adult Day Care.

## Rutherford County Senior Center to hold Medicare 101 Class

Rutherford County Senior Center will host a Medicare 101 Class for anyone interested in learning more about Medicare and the Extra Help/Low Income Subsidy. Catherine Palmer, Western Regional Manager for the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) will be presenting this valuable information.

The class is scheduled for Tuesday, June 3, 2014 at 5:30 pm at the Rutherford County Senior Center. For more information, please contact Angela Ezell at 828-287-6411.

## Social Services

The Social Services Department's staff participated in a NC FAST conference call on Wednesday. The Medicaid implementation has now been placed on a faster track by the State. Currently, the goal is to have all Medicaid cases entered in NC FAST by the end of this calendar year and retire the Eligibility Information System (EIS). It is doubtful that this will happen, but that goal will certainly increase the workload and create a potential that cases could be delayed due to bugs in the system. It was also learned that NC Division of Medical Assistance (DMA) has made a request to Center of Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS) that all Medicaid work be reimbursed at the enhanced 75% level. If this is approved, it will increase revenues that can be utilized to help process cases and avoid a significant backlog. On Tuesday, the Director attended the More At Four Advisory Board meeting. At the meeting, the Board voted on public elementary and private daycare center More at Four sites, and approved the number of slots for each site. On Wednesday, the regular monthly agency supervisor meeting was held; and staff attended a webinar concerning Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC). MAC will replace At Risk Case Management, which will sunset on June 30, 2014. MAC will allow the agency to use Medicaid as a funding stream for certain services provided to Medicaid eligible children and adults who have medical and/or mental health needs. On Thursday, the agency held its third Leadership Development Program meeting. This month focused on learning more about our community partners and how to collaborate more effectively. The group made visits to the Path Shelter, Noah's House, and Clara Allen Center, which are operated by Family Resources of Rutherford County; Yokefellow Service Center, and Holland House. At each of the sites, staff talked with the group about the purpose of the agency and about how they are managed. In the afternoon, Forest City Housing Authority hosted the group and made a presentation regarding services, activities and educational programs provided there; and Amanda McGee, Social Work Program Manager, presented a session on Learning Competencies - What Got You Here Won't Get You There. The group also took some time to discuss the service project that will be provided by the group this year.

## Soil and Water

The Soil and Water Department's Admin/Education Specialist worked on end of year reports and District meeting information. Staff visited Forrest W. Hunt to inspect progress on their outdoor environmental learning center. The Ag Cost Share Technician worked on Cost Share Strategy Plan and sending end of year documents and reports. The Technician also attended a cover crop workshop.

## Solid Waste

The Solid Waste Landfill served 319 customers, hauled 49 containers from the convenience centers, shipped 26 loads to Lenoir and sent out three recycling trailers. The Director has been obtaining information for EDC at the request from Matt Blackwell. The Director also has been working with Richard Williams, County Attorney, on the pallet contract and continues to work with Adrienne Wallace, Public Information Clerk, on new signage for the convenience centers. Staff are in the final stages of starting the new textile recycling program in the county. All convenience centers, the landfill and three high schools will have containers for recycling clothing. All staff continues to perform everyday job duties despite the heavy volume of trash since the holiday. The landfill staff sent out an electronics shipment to the recycler located in Badin, NC. The shop staff have worked on several compactors this week at convenience centers and have been performing routine maintenance on vehicles and equipment.

The solid waste code enforcement officer report is as follows:

- Active cases 14
- Convenience center cases 5
- Pictures taken yes
- Letters sent 3
- Citations written 0
- Closed cases 3
- Community service workers 5
- Community service reports 1

The landfill has been contacted by Orange County SC, Catawba County, Chatham County and Lincoln County in the last two weeks to ask questions about the recycling operation. Thanks to all staff we have answered all questions and even had a group visit the landfill.

## Tourism Development Authority

The TDA board held its monthly meeting and reviewed the budget. In addition, the Wayfinding Committee made its final draft presentations in two areas of the county. The new marketing team paid another information-gathering visit to our county.

## Transportation Services

The Transportation Services Department's **EMS** Personnel responded to 136 emergency calls and 48 convalescent calls. Staff met with ER Director, Lowell Hardin from Rutherford Regional and discussed several opportunities to improve service between both agencies.

**Transit:** Transit was closed on Monday for Memorial Day. Transit drove 9,949 miles, completed 783 local trips and 58 out of county trips, transported 239 unduplicated passengers and collected \$12,267 in revenue. Mobile tables have been installed in all vehicles and drivers have been training on using a paperless system. The implementation has gone very smoothly. The tablets will help Transit continue to improve efficiency and customer service.

## Veterans Services

The Veterans Services Office had 127 mail-ins, 125 mail-outs, 110 telephone contacts, and 221 veteran contacts.

Veteran Services had a very busy Memorial weekend. They placed flags on Veterans' graves at Chase Cemetery, help put up flags (and take them down) on Main Street in Forest City, assisted with the MCL Golf Tournament (fund raiser for Rutherford County Veterans) and attended and assisted with the Memorial Day celebration in Forest City.

### *Order Your 2014 Relay Shirt Today A Great Looking Shirt for a Great Cause*

**All Orders must be in by - - - June 4 2014**

**Sizes - - Youth S- L \$10.00 Adult - - S- XL \$10.00 and 1X - 6X \$12.00**

**Contact [Jeanette Bosgra](#)**



#### *County Commissioners*

**William Eckler, Chairman**

**Julius Owens**

**Eddie Holland, Vice Chairman**

**Roger Richard**

**Greg Lovelace**

**Carl Classen, County Manager**

**Hazel S. Haynes, Clerk to the Board**

**Richard Williams, County Attorney**



*Stay connected!*

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